

---

**U.S. Department of Energy**  
**Finding of No Significant Impact**

**Ground-Water Compliance at the  
Falls City, Texas, Uranium Mill Tailings Site**

**U. S. Department of Energy**  
**Grand Junction Office**  
**Grand Junction, Colorado**

**March 1998**

---

## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

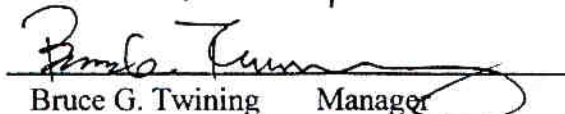
**FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) proposes to adopt the No Ground-Water Remediation strategy and apply U.S. Environmental Protection Agency supplemental standards to ground-water contamination at the Falls City, Texas, uranium mill tailings site. The Proposed Action and No-Action alternatives are assessed in the *Environmental Assessment of Ground-Water Compliance at the Falls City, Texas, Uranium Mill Tailings Site* (see attached DOE/EA-1227). The Environmental Assessment analyzes the effects on human health, water and land use, surface water, ground water, ecology, historical and cultural resources, environmental justice, and wetlands.

The proposal to adopt the No Ground-Water Remediation strategy and apply supplemental standards at the Falls City site meets the compliance requirements of ground-water protection standards and protection of public health and the environment. Supplemental standards are appropriate because ground water at the site meets the criteria for limited-use ground water as defined in 40 CFR 192.

The framework for determining the compliance strategy for the Falls City Site is presented in the *Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Ground Water Project* (PEIS) (DOE/EIS-0198). The Environmental Assessment was tiered to the PEIS in a manner consistent with the concept of tiering (40 CFR §1508.28).

**FINDING:** Based on the assessment of the issues of environmental concern and the concerns of the stakeholders, DOE finds that no significant impact would result from either the proposed action to apply supplemental standards to ground-water contamination or from the No Action alternative at the Falls City site. This Finding of No Significant Impact is pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), 42 USC § 4321, *et seq.*; the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA, 40 CFR 1500; and the DOE National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures, 10 CFR 1021. The proposed action does not constitute a major federal action that would significantly affect the human environment within the mandate of NEPA. Therefore, no environmental impact statement is required for this proposal.

Signed in Albuquerque, New Mexico, this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1998.

  
Bruce G. Twining      Manager

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** For additional information concerning this proposal, or to obtain copies of the Environmental Assessment, please contact:

Mr. Don Metzler, Project Manager  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Grand Junction Office  
P.O. Box 2597 B 3/4 Road  
Grand Junction, CO 81502-2567  
Telephone: (970) 248-7612  
(800) 399-5618

Copies of the Environmental Assessment and the Finding of No Significant Impact will be made available at the following locations:

Falls City Public Library  
P.O. Box 220  
Falls City, TX 78113-0220

Karnes City Public Library  
302 S. Panna Maria  
Karnes City, TX 78118

DOE-GJO Reading Room  
2597 B 3/4 Road  
Grand Junction, CO 81502-2567

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE NEPA PROCESS, CONTACT:**

Mr. Jeff Robbins, NEPA Compliance Officer  
Environmental Protection Division,  
U.S. Department of Energy Albuquerque Operations Office,  
P.O. Box 5400  
Albuquerque, NM 87115  
Telephone: (505) 845-4426

**Management and Review Team  
Concurrence Sign-Off  
for Environmental Assessment Approval**

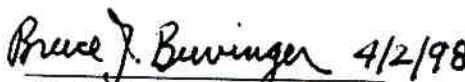
**ACTION:** ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF GROUND WATER  
COMPLIANCE AT THE FALLS CITY, TEXAS URANIUM MILL  
TAILINGS SITE

**ISSUE:** Approval of the document as the final Environmental Assessment for  
this action and the issuance of a Finding of No Significant Impact  
(FONSI) for compliance activities at the Falls City, Texas, Uranium  
Mill Tailings Site.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Management and Review Team and the DOE-AL NEPA  
Compliance Officer concur in their recommendation that the DOE  
Manager approve this document as the final EA, DOE/EA-1227, for  
this action and issue a FONSI.

  
Document Manager

  
Legal Counsel

 4/2/98  
AL Environmental Specialist

 4/2/98  
AL NCO